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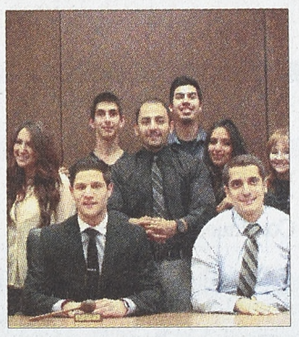
the independent student newspaper

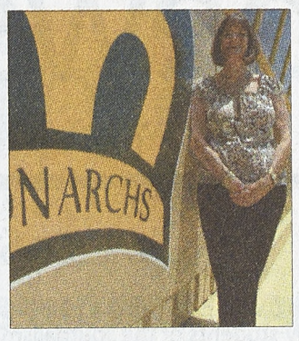


The Valley Star overviews what the ASU has and has not done this past year.

SEE OPINION PAGE 3

The Valley College music department was host to a guitar concert in the Music Recital Hall last Friday.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 5



Valley Athletic Director Diedra Stark steps down after 40 years of dedication to athletics.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 7

lavalleystar.com | May 23, 2012 | Volume 76 Issue 8

BUDGET MESS CONTINUES AFTER REVISED DEFICIT NUMBERS

Schools will take a hit if disappointing state revenues lead to additional budget cuts.

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

California schools may once again feel the pinch since revised estimates project the state deficit is almost twice as high as originally thought. Despite numerous spending cuts intended to help balance the state budget, the deficit has swelled to nearly $16 billion, up from the $9-billion estimate released in January.

In anticipation of additional cuts to its budget, the University of California's Board of Regents is considering raising tuition by 6 percent, though a final decision will not be voted on until July. A CBS News report also states that a much larger increase may be necessary if voters reject a tax initiative proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"What I am proposing is not a panacea," said Brown in his "Address to the People of California," released on his YouTube channel, "but it goes a long way toward cleaning up the state budget mess." His proposal includes a .25 percent sales tax increase and a 3 percent increase in state income tax for individuals earning more than $250,000 per year.

Although he estimates that the tax increase would generate $9 billion in revenue, Brown admits that additional cuts will still be needed. He has also designated $6 billion in cuts that will be triggered if voters do not approve his tax initiative. The Associated Press reports that these cuts would largely be targeted at public schools, resulting in higher college tuition fees and a K-12 school year that would have to be shortened by up to three weeks.

Brown knows that Californians are not eager to accept a tax increase but hopes it will be preferred to the alternative, so he appealed directly to voters.

"We can't fill this hole with cuts alone," he said. "That's why I'm bypassing the gridlock and asking you, the people of California, to approve a plan that avoids cuts to schools and public safety."

The cause of the higher estimated deficit is two-fold. The courts have blocked many of the cuts proposed in January, including cuts to Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services. Additionally, state income tax revenue has been drastically lower than expected, coming in $2 billion below the original projections.

|See DEFICIT Page 2|

MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR

ALL SIGNS LEAD TO VALLEY - Construction workers erected a new sign Monday, which will feature a digital marquee at the southwest entrance of campus on the corner of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. Iron worker Adam Whitlown worked atop a ladder and welder Eddie Salcito worked on the manlift as foreman Manny Velenzuela looked on.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS LEAVES LACCD PREPARING $160 MILLION IN RESERVE FUNDS

The Los Angeles Community College District is seeking to create a $160-million reserve fund following revelations of misappropriation of construction bond money within its nine campuses.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Following a series of critical articles in the L.A. Times describing gross financial misconduct during the remodeling of the district's nine campuses, the Los Angeles Community College District is now looking to create a $160-million reserve fund for unexpected expenses and future lawsuits.

The fund is to be paid for by the colleges in amounts varying from Mission College's $14 million to East Los Angeles College's $22 million. Valley College's contribution to the fund is expected to be $21 million, according to a LACCD memo. As the construction progresses and the associated budgetary risks lessen, the funds will slowly be funneled back to the colleges.

Asking voters for another tax increase to pay for the reserve fund is not likely.

"Impossible," said Project Director Eloy Retamal from Yang Management, Valley's construction management company. "With all the bad press, the voters won't vote for another tax increase."

Instead, Valley will divert funds from the construction projects that would entail expanding the current student capacity or building square-footage, said Valley President Sue Carleo. Funding for any project that exceeds the current campus capacity is still tangled up in the LACCD funding freeze.

"It has been a very slow process, and it is very frustrating for us," said Carleo about the halted construction. The funding freeze is also jeopardizing the current favorable buying rate of construction materials as well as labor.

"The market place will not be in our favor the longer we wait," Carleo said.

The original $6-billion project to modernize existing buildings and construct new sustainable buildings is funded by several property tax-increase measures. The funds are earmarked for construction-related expenses only, and cannot be used to increase the number of courses or instructors.

Since the spending freeze was imposed in December 2011, Valley has remained in limbo regarding the release of $251 million pending the result of a state audit ordered by LACCD Chancellor David LaVista. Before starting any construction, Valley spent 18 months developing a comprehensive Master Plan for the entire campus. This has resulted in a disproportionately large sum for the remaining projects that Valley has tied up in the freeze, compared to other campuses that began construction immediately.

Since construction started in

|See LACCD Page 2|

FOLLOWING THE MONEY

$160-MILLION
RESERVE FUND IN PREPARATION FOR ALL NINE LACCD CAMPUSES

$21 MILLION
IS THE ESTIMATED FIGURE VALLEY COLLEGE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESERVE FUND.

$6 BILLION
WAS THE INITIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROVED BY TAX PAYERS TO MODERNIZE LACCD BUILDINGS.

$251 MILLION
IS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY VALLEY COLLEGE HAS FROZEN PENDING A STATE AUDIT ORDERED BY LACCD CHANCELLOR DAVID LAVISTA.

ON THE LOOKOUT

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

The dwindling education budget cannot sustain high-school students who arrive unprepared.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN

The Los Angeles Board of Education recently voted that high-school students taking college-prep classes must earn grades of D or better to graduate. But letting students enter community college with such poor grades and study skills means shifting funds from required to remedial courses to bring lacking students up to speed. This lax attitude to the rigors of higher education is not an option for California's under-funded college system.

Before students are able to register for college courses, they are required to take math and English comprehension assessments. The results of the tests determine if students must take any remedial courses before registering for courses that will show up on transcripts and count toward associate's degree or transfer credit. A whooping 33 percent of Valley College's student population was engaged in non-credit or remedial courses, according to a 2010 Valley College Council Meeting.

"When you're in ninth grade, we can predict with high precision whether you are going to be able to transfer from a community college because of how far behind you are going to be when you get to community college," said UCLA Civil Rights Project Co-director Patricia Gándara in a "Thoughts On Public Education in California" forum.

Even students without the need for remedial courses are struggling to complete their transfer requirements or associate's degrees in the allocated two-year time frame because of

|See COLUMN Page 2|

Final Examination Schedule

Tuesday, May 29 to Monday, June 4

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY JUNE 4			TUESDAY MAY 29		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 MW 6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 – 11:05 MW 9:40 – 10:55 MWF	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 – 2:25 MW 1:00 – 2:15 MWTh	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh 9:40 – 10:55 TThF	1:00 – 2:25 TTh 1:00 – 2:15 TThF

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY MAY 30			THURSDAY MAY 31		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30 - 12:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 – 9:25 MW 8:00 – 9:15 MWF	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 – 12:45 MW 11:20 – 12:35 MWF	2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 – 4:05 MW	8:00 – 9:25 TTh 8:00 – 9:15 TThF	11:20 – 12:45 TTh 11:20 – 12:35 TThF	1:45 – 3:10 TTh 1:45 – 3:00 TThF

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, MAY 27.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on June 1.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on June 2.

To use the schedule below:
- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated **M T W Th F** for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M June 4	4 - 6pm	M	M June 4	4 - 6pm	M	M June 4	7 - 9pm
T	T May 29	4 - 6pm	T	T May 29	4 - 6pm	T	T May 29	7 - 9pm
W	W May 30	4 - 6pm	W	W May 30	4 - 6pm	W	W May 30	7 - 9pm
Th	Th May 31	4 - 6pm	Th	Th May 31	4 - 6pm	Th	Th May 31	7 - 9pm
MW	M June 4	4 - 6pm	MW	W May 30	4 - 6pm	MW	M June 4	7 - 9pm
TTh	T May 29	4 - 6pm	TTh	Th May 31	4 - 6pm	TTh	T May 29	7 - 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Photos of the Week: Renaissance Fair

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

TRACK AND FIELD

See Gallery Page 8

Do you have a news tip? » Send us your news tip to valleystar@lavalleystar.com or join us on Facebook.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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DEFICIT

Continued from page 1

For this reason, the initial public offering for stock in Facebook has been highly anticipated by the state.

The Wall Street Journal predicts that more than $1.5 billion in tax revenue could be generated from sales of this stock alone. Although this does not eliminate the necessity for cuts, it could decrease the cuts that would be needed.

Brown is reluctant to slash school budgets any further, but he knows he might not have any other options. The governor is determined to eliminate the deficit even if his tax initiative is not approved.

"Given the decade of fiscal disconnect, I've committed to righting the ship of state and getting it into balance," said Brown. "Otherwise, we borrow and sink deeper in debt."

LACCD

Continued from page 1

2002, all Valley campus buildings except the bungalows have undergone some level of renovation, such as improved bathrooms, flooring and windows. Nine buildings have been demolished and rebuilt using materials sorted and reused from the demolition rubble.

Currently, Valley only has permission to move ahead with building the new garage structure and the Multi-Purpose Community Service Center. Valley has sought an early release of funds to start construction on 11 projects, and the status of this request is expected to be released May 23 at the LACCD board meeting.

The construction on the Library and Academic Resource Center will be completed in early June and is expected to welcome students for the fall 2012 semester. Landscaping activities will continue over summer break, as well as the erection of a 4-foot guard fence between Burbank Boulevard and the irrigation ditch

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

state budget cuts. More funding spent on remedial courses means less spent on everything else: fewer for-credit courses and full-time instructors. Students in remedial courses are effectively taking up funding that would be better spent on more qualified candidates.

A 2010 report by former UC President Richard Atkinson and Saul Geiser of UC Berkeley reveal that due to budget constraints, "the framers of the [university] Master Plan limited eligibility for admission to UC and CSU to the top eighth and top third of the state's high school graduates, diverting many students to two-year institutions." This explains why so many less-than-stellar academic high school performances result in the community college remedial course roundabout.

Letting students pass when they should actually fail is not helpful. High school students' intent should not be to spend their time in community college taking remedial classes to gain a knowledge that should already be there upon graduating high school.

Students who are admitted to community college after spending years passing with a failing grade will be in for a rude awakening. When graduating high school with a grade of D, which in college means failing the requirements, students are not taught the important lesson of effort equals result. Very few students can skip, jump and dance their way through college. It takes time, dedication and hard work. In an educational system that is bursting at the seams with students, but with a budget the size of a pinhole, there is simply no room for those who have displayed a lack of academic potential or prowess to succeed.

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VALLEY STAR CORRECTION:

In last week's issue of the Valley Star, there was an article entitled "The Underlying Consequences of Concussions," which was missing a byline credit. Ariel Waitkuweit, who works as copy editor for the Valley Star, is the author of "The Underlying Consequences of Concussions." The article, which appeared in the Valley Star newspaper, belongs to Waitkuweit and the Valley Star, and are not intended for further use unless authorized by her and or the Valley Star.

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Metro is now testing buses along the four-mile extension of the Metro Orange Line, near Canoga Av between Victory Bl and Devonshire St.

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> Observe the "Keep Clear" zone at crossings
> Make sure you turn onto a street–never onto the busway
> Never drive, walk or bike on the busway
> Use the designated bike path when riding along the busway
> When turning left across the busway, watch for vehicles in both directions
> Do not make a right turn on a red light
> Never try to beat an Orange Line bus across an intersection
> Always use crosswalks
> Wait for the "Walk" signal before entering the crosswalk–never jaywalk across the busway

Metro

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EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

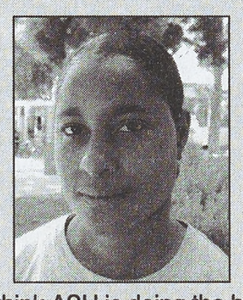
VALLEY VIEW | DO YOU THINK THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION HAS DONE A GOOD JOB THIS SEMESTER?

"I don't think they have done a good job making themselves known to the students not in the clubs. Hopefully, next year the executives will be like the ICC to make sure the students are more motivated."

-ALEXIA JOHNSON, SOCIOLOGY

"There's been so much drama around the presidency. It left me a little confused. It came down to their personal want and not the student body, not best. It was shady ... [stuff] going on."

-STEPHANY DROTMAN, SOCIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY



"I think ASU is doing the best they can ... With the budget cuts, they don't have much to work with. Their efforts are greatly appreciated."

-TRINA DERRICKS, LINGUISTICS/COMMUNICATIONS

"I'm torn because I think they did a good job this semester overall. I just think the problem that came toward the end was shaky and unprofessional. I think it seems disconnected overall."

-OMAR HERRERA, ENGLISH

"I think they have done a good job recruiting people into the ASU. They are really a supporting group. I have been to a couple of ASU events, and ... I think they are doing a good job."

-DAISY GARCIA, CHILD DEVELOPMENT

COMPILED BY JD OROYE | VALLEY STAR

ASU COMES CLOSE TO ITS PURPOSE

The Associated Student Union hit the marks of its purpose while missing items completely.

STAFF EDITORIAL

The best and most objective way to evaluate the performance of any government body is to formulate a retrospective of its achievements—specifically those that relate to the proposed mission. The constitution for the Valley College Associated Student Union presents a conjunction of goals, and this year's board has achieved only a fraction of them.

The ASU's purpose, according to its constitution, is to "promote cultural awareness, student leadership, academic improvement, student well-being, and to increase positive campus/community relations." This line in the constitution comes as a mouthful when read, and was most certainly an unrealistic undertaking for a board that began with several open positions.

Cultural awareness has been achieved through the success of various club days during the semester. These events focused on everything from Black History Month and Cesar Chavez Day to the Veterans and LGBTQ community.

Student leadership, however, is where ASU fell short. The board saw an influx of officers and commissioners take leave. Some reportedly left due to disagreements with the heads of the board, President Norvan Berkezyan and Vice President Eduard Grigoryan. Others left because of an overwhelming course load, and former adviser Elizabeth Ortiz resigned for maternity leave.

In the midpoint of the semester, the Valley Star editor-in-chief received an anonymous letter to the editor, which focused on flaws within this year's ASU board. The letter accused Berkezyan and president-elect Vahe Matevosyan of nepotism—a belief more or less echoed by several students and ICC representatives.

Interestingly enough, Matevosyan—Berkezyan's cousin—was appointed chief justice at the beginning of the school year. The ASU president before Berkezyan was Hanna Matevosyan—his cousin and the president-elect's older sister. These, and behavioral issues from campaigners, were also brought to light during elections.

Another part of the umbrella of student leadership is having ASU members serve on administrative committees. This aspect has increased significantly with the current board: Commissioner of Fine Arts Ashley Miller advises on the Student Learning Outcome Committee and Commissioner of Campus and Environmental Affairs Lester B. Salavador serves on the Work Environment Committee to name a few.

Strong leadership was also recognized when former Attorney General Brandon Batham was appointed as interim student trustee for the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees. This allowed a consistent flow of updates from the district to reach the ASU Executive Council—giving key nuggets of information that focused on this year's "budget advocacy," which included the March 15 letters and news of the $6-million shortfall.

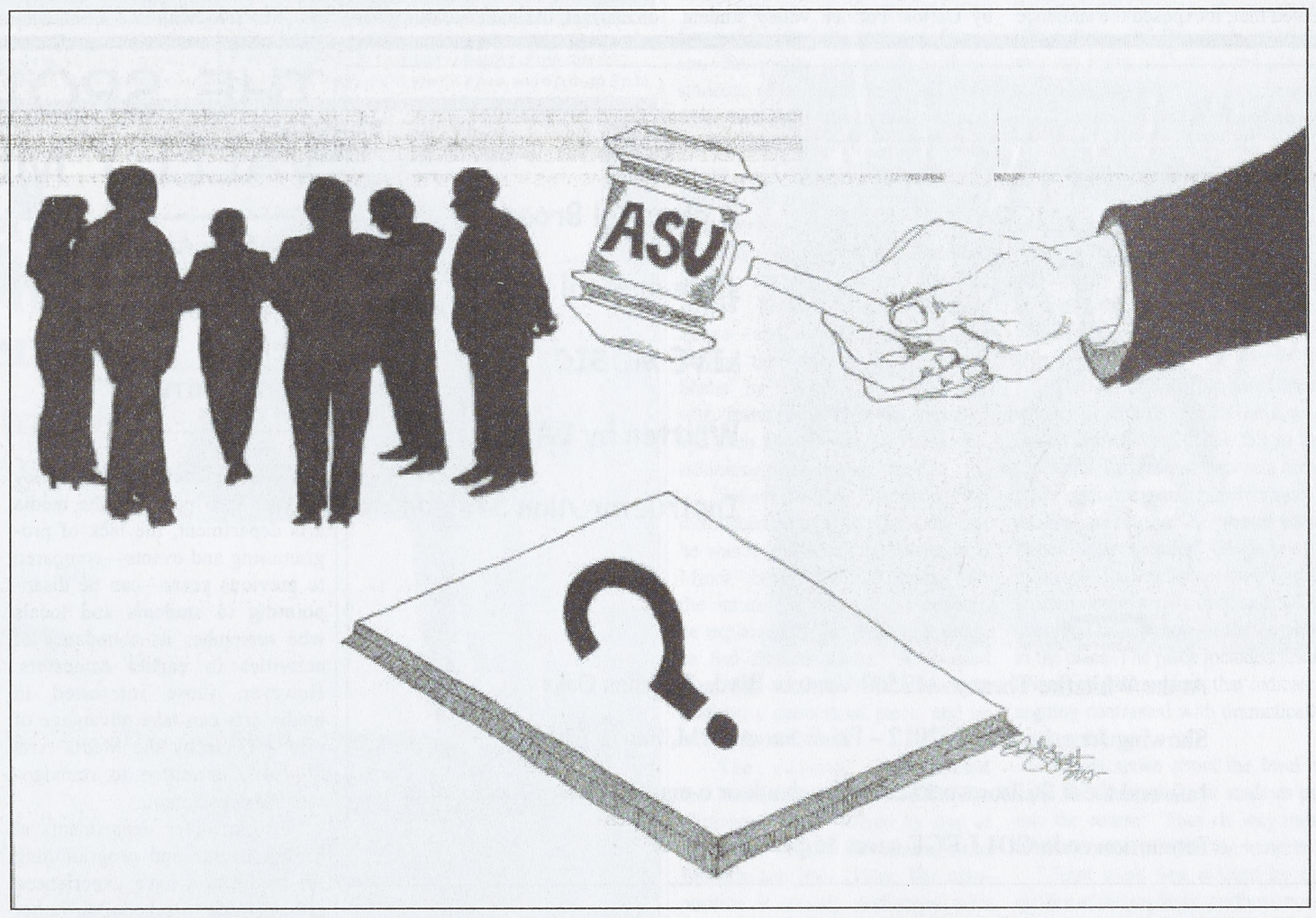
For some time now, the ASU and the Star have not seen eye to eye. This could be for a variety of reasons, but the campus newspaper—like any newspaper involving politics—serves as the watchdog of the government, and this includes Valley's student government. Clearly, the ASU values the campus newspaper or else there would not be a commissioner of public relations.

According to its website, the commissioner of public relations description states that the commissioner, "assists other commissioners and members of the ICC with publicizing any events or functions … [the commissioner is] also responsible for newspaper advertising."

Not once this semester have any of the Valley Star editors or the advertising manager been contacted from the public relations commissioner. Here's something for the ASU to note: if there are phone calls and e-mails to the staff about the ASU and events sponsored by the Executive Council and ICC, it is more likely to be covered if applicable to the readership.

Thankfully, the ASU has done a good job of being open for questions and answers by the Valley Star staff. However, making the mark for community relations among students extends to the paper, and improvements can always be made.

Best of luck to the newly elected ASU board. Much work is ready to be done.



EDYTHE SMITH | VALLEY STAR

MITT ROMNEY: ONCE A BULLY, ALWAYS A BULLY

By laughing off his youthful acts of cruelty, Mitt Romney shows serious character flaws that are far from presidential.

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

A recent Washington Post story detailing an incident in Mitt Romney's high school days when he bullied a student who was suspected of being gay has garnered a lot of attention, and rightfully so. Although Romney supporters are eager to dismiss it as a childish prank, doing so would ignore signs that this behavior has continued into his adult life and even his presidential campaign. His youthful actions are just part of a lifetime of bullying and oppression that has no place in today's society, much less in the White House.

The details of the story are pretty horrific. According to the Post, Romney was apparently outraged over his schoolmate's hair, which was bleached blonde and hanging over his eyes. This caused Romney to tell his friends, "He can't look like that. That's wrong. Look at him!" So, he gathered a posse of his friends, found his victim, pinned him to the ground and cut his hair while he cried and screamed for help.

The other boys with Romney that evening have since recalled the incident as "vicious" and "a senseless, stupid, idiotic thing to do." Yet, Romney's own recollection of the event drew quite a different reaction—laughter.

Fox News Radio attempted to downplay the story and gave Romney a chance to apologize for his actions. After initially saying that he had no memory of the incident, Romney offered a vague apology for the "pranks" and "dumb things" he did in high school. But, he was unable to remember what he did without laughing about it, and that is troubling. A grown man with ambitions for the highest office in this country apparently still finds it funny to physically assault someone because of his sexual orientation.

This behavior is part of a lifetime of bullying and uncompassionate behavior. In addition to picking on gay students in high school, Romney also pulled pranks including tricking a teacher with bad eyesight to walk face-first into a door. After college, he led Bain Capital, a private investment firm where the business model was based in part on acquiring struggling companies, into bankruptcy and laid off its employees. He was later famously quoted as saying, "I like being able to fire people." He also recently mocked people at a NASCAR event who wore trash bags to shield themselves from the rain, saying, "I like those fancy raincoats you bought. Really sprung for the big bucks."

Individually, these things may be easy to dismiss, but as a whole, they are impossible to ignore. The National Association of School Psychologists says that many bullies do so to fit in with a group that may otherwise exclude them. This seems to be the case with Romney, as he has become increasingly vicious as his campaign has progressed. After initially struggling to find supporters, he gained approval from GOP voters by stepping up his attacks on women, the poor, and LGBTQ people, endorsing policies that would oppress or limit the rights of all these groups.

Politics aside, Romney appears to be an intelligent man. Surely, he should know better than to engage in childish bullying to win support from his party. The fact that this seems to be his primary campaign strategy shows a serious lack of growth, compassion and leadership from a man who is hoping to win an election.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editorinchief@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

CUTTING TO THE BONE

STUDENT LOAN DEBT IS A VICIOUS CYCLE

Students have less to spend as they struggle to repay loans.

KEVIN JERSEY

Here is a scary number: 1,000,000,000,000. That is the estimated dollar value of current student loan debt in America, an average of more than $25,000 per student.

Here is another scary number: 53.6. That is the percentage of recent college graduates who are either unemployed or underemployed, according to the Associated Press, meaning that they are likely struggling to repay those loans.

These numbers are, in part, both the cause and effect of the slow recovery from the recent economic recession. Unless something drastic is done, these numbers may get even scarier.

Experts, including Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, have argued that the easiest way out of a recession is to put money in the hands of people who will spend it, therefore increasing the demand for products, creating jobs, giving more money to consumers and increasing tax revenue. The current plague of student loan debt is the exact opposite of this idea. Instead of creating a new wave of consumers eager to buy cars and homes and raise families and spend money, the current loan crisis has borne a generation of debt slaves who are not able to spend on the things that would actually stimulate the economy.

According to the Pew Research Center, economic difficulties including loan debt have caused 24 percent of young adults to move back in with their parents to save money. More than 20 percent have postponed either getting married or having a child, and 49 percent have taken a low-paying job outside their field of study just to pay their bills. But, most troubling are the 35 percent who have gone back to school hoping to increase their job opportunities and wait out the recession while accumulating additional debt they will then struggle to repay.

Krugman suggests that the national deficit is not nearly as urgent a problem as individual debt. He encourages increases in government spending to create jobs, including rehiring many of the public employees who were laid off due to spending cuts. However, most legislators in Washington refuse to approve any additional government spending and instead insist that cuts are the solution to the deficit problem. These cuts have led to increased tuition rates and decreased financial aid, increasing the necessity for student loans.

There is light on the horizon though. President Barack Obama has proposed an Income-Based Repayment Plan that would tie payment rates to income, with no one paying more than 10 percent of their monthly discretionary income. He also plans to reject a potential increase that would double the interest rate on student loans from 3.2 to 6.4 percent. The interest freeze alone would save the average student $1,000 per year. A plan from Rep. Hanson Clarke, D-Mich., would go even further, forgiving all remaining debt for anyone who has made 10 years of payments.

These are not perfect solutions, as lenders would take a big hit from loans that were not totally repaid. But, both Obama and Clarke believe that the benefits of freeing graduates from the burden of excessive debt would outweigh any negative effects. At the very least, it would make the future for college graduates a lot less scary.

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Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

LAVC Events

MAY

Wednesday, 23

LAVC Student Show 2012
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 9 p.m
Sponsored by the LAVC Art Department
LAVC Art Gallery
(818) 778-5536

Student Educational Plan (SEP) Workshop
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Counseling Department
Engineering 104
(818) 947-2647

Thursday, 24

LAVC Student Show 2012
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 9 p.m
Sponsored by the LAVC Art Department
LAVC Art Gallery
(818) 778-5536

Performance Workshop
11:20 a.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
Music 106
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LAVC Success Stories
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Sponsored by the Strategic Team for the Advancement and Rentention of Students (STARS) and Preparing All Students for Success (PASS)
Behavioral Sciences 100
(818) 947-27122

Student Educational Plan (SEP) Workshop
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Counseling Department
Emergency Services Training 103
(818) 947-2647

"NUTS" by Tom Topor
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Department of the Theater Arts
LAVC Horseshoe Theater
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MAY

Wednesday, 23

CSUN Peer Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, 24

Applied to UC, What's Next? Workshop
Noon - 1 p.m.

Monday, 28

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday, 28

Art Insitute Representative
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CSUN Peer Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UCLA Peer Mentor
Noon - 5 p.m.

All activities are held in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126 unless otherwise indicated.

Hours for the Career/Transfer Center are Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Career/Transfer Center assists students seeking to continue studies for those transferring to a four-year school or university, to obtain an associate's degree or enroll in certificate programs.

For appointments and further information, call (818) 947-2646.

CONCERT REVIEW

LORAINA AMEDEN | VALLEY STAR
ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE - The final choral concert of the school year was a success due to a packed audience on Sunday, which filled the Mainstage Theatre. The last song performed, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," combined all three choirs.

VALLEY CHORAL CONCERT MAKES A "SPLASH"

Sunday's choral concert gave the audience a chance to listen to different genres of music.

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Choral Director Glenn Carlos summed up the choral concert "Splash" Sunday night, stating, "We have so much to share … this text is about water. And if you think about it, there is so much [around us]."

Water comes in so many different forms: it is in lakes, oceans, bodies and ice. "Splash" represented that; it exposed the audience to different genres of choral music.

The night started with music from the philharmonic choir. This group is the advance group of the two choral choirs. The group's set had different music mainly from the early and mid-20th century. The choir's balance played well into each piece performed. The members also brought in umbrellas as props for the third number with jazz undertones for "At the River" by Aaron Copland. The choir seemingly enjoyed performing it, evidenced by the smiles on their faces.

The highlight of the philharmonic choir was the last number, "Rainy Days and Mondays" written by Roger Nichols and arranged by Carlos. Former Valley student and choir member Sarah Proctor—who, according to Carlos, is now a CSUN nursing student—came back to sing along as a soloist in the final number for the first set. Proctor's voice filled Valley's packed Mainstage Theatre and transported the audience to a Sunday afternoon gospel choir.

The next choral group that sang was Valley's college choir. The college choir was the biggest group that night, consisting of 66 members singing a range from the American classic folk song, "O Shenandoah," arranged by Ruth Elaine Schramm, to an upbeat "Trickle, Trickle" by Clarence Bassett. With the pairing of applied music student David Seta on clarinet, the audience was given a relaxed tone similar to ocean waves. Soloist Ruben Hernandez, along with the college choir, took the audience back in time to the mid-50s with the sock hop vibe "Trickle, Trickle" and was an audience favorite.

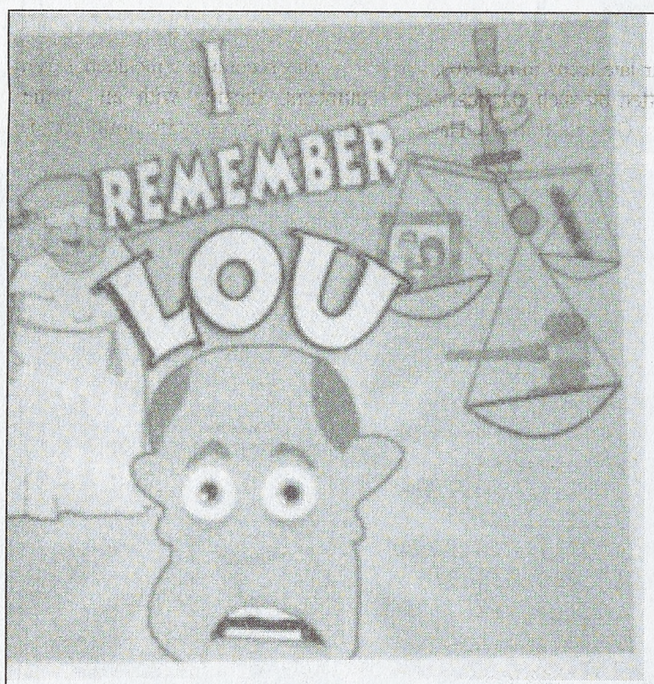
The Monarch jazz choir spiced things up, opening with "Summer Samba" by Marcos Valle. The percussion paired with the notes of the song conveyed to the audience a summer island getaway.

"Agua" by Djavan, arranged by Janis Siegel and Carlos, continued the getaway. Soloist Allyson Glaser—an applied music student who is transferring to San Diego State University as a performance major—had good balance throughout her solo with the 17-student choir that served as the refrain and background tones.

The finale was a combined effort from all three choirs—the philharmonic choir, college choir and Monarch jazz—singing "Bridge Over Troubled Water," featuring soprano Ellia Young and tenor William Behlendorf.

Young and Behlendorf's chemistry was evident and balanced each other well. Young's riffs gave the folk song a gospel feel, and Behlendorf was a constant with his stable tones.

"Splash" gave the audience a chance to hear musical interpretations and showed off the work that music students have worked so hard on over the semester, and the audience was not disappointed.



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THE SPOTLIGHT ON VALLEY MEDIA ARTS

The Media Arts Student Committee makes room for new and more productive activities.

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

When glancing at the Valley College Web page for the media arts department, the lack of programming and events—compared to previous years—can be disappointing to students and locals who remember its abundance of activities in earlier semesters. However, those interested in media arts can take advantage of efforts made by the Media Arts Student Committee to reinvigorate the department.

Unlike other departments at Valley, events and programming for media arts have experienced setbacks due to scheduling rather than budget cuts. Contributions to programs such as the Institute for Developing Entertainment Arts and Studies come from students, faculty and local professionals who strive to create a unique learning experience for students interested in cinema and broadcasting.

"The main logistical issue is that media arts and cinema are generally evening programs," stated Dan Watanabe, the director of IDEAS and faculty advisor for MASC. "So the timing of the events was an issue in order to maximize attendance."

Watanabe referred to past screenings sponsored by the Educational Film Society, IDEAS and the MASC. The collaboration was host to screenings of acclaimed classics and hard-to-find gems of cinema, followed by discussions. A vast majority was tied into courses offered on campus; students interested in seeing feature-length films mentioned in class were able to do so amongst professionals, faculty and peers.

The MASC, formerly co-chaired by alumni Emery Wheeler and Anand Ramachandran, also developed an online newsletter, "The Telecine," which was posted bi-weekly from 2007 to 2008 following a short run of printed hard copies. Ramachandran, also the former ICC representative for MASC and editor-in-chief for The Telecine, looks back on his experiences with the club and the newsletter with great appreciation.

"The Valley academic programs, as well as IDEAS, were integral to getting me where I am today," said Ramachandran. "Everyone can benefit from more information and discussion—not just film students, but the community at large."

Ramachandran attended Valley after obtaining a bachelor's degree in English and geography from the University of Colorado Boulder. He transferred to CSUN in 2010 and is now working toward a master's degree in cinema.

According to Robert Reber, the current president of the MASC, the club's focus is now heavily geared toward producing and shooting short and independent films. Although The Telecine and film society are no longer in operation, Watanabe stated that there are several students who now continue discussions and blogs online and that there is a possibility of bringing back screenings geared toward genres. He also remarked on the incorporation of MASC events into the IDEAS program and the importance of future collaborations.

"The MASC can be a huge benefit for students," said Watanabe. "It allows them to make a movie using the experience they learned in the classroom without having the firm deadlines that a classroom project requires. It also allows students to form their own production teams, which may work together in the future."

HAND-PICKED STUDENT ART GALLERY OPENS

The annual student art show opened Thursday, honoring the hard work of Valley art students.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Art enthusiasts throughout the Valley College community were treated to the opening on Thursday of the annual student art show that highlighted the artworks created by students during the school year.

"I am always so impressed with our student shows," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "The variety and talent just comes right off the walls."

The selected art pieces are created in courses taught throughout Valley's art department, which focuses on a wide range of visual arts such as illustrations, photography and sculptures. The displays from both art and non-art majors are chosen by professors for the exhibition.

Students whose artwork gets selected for the gallery are able to add that to their resumes and portfolios. The top three art pieces from each art class are selected to be on display at the Valley gallery.

"This is a really big honor to have [work showcased]," said Anne Tufenkjian, the president of the art club. "Only three pieces get selected, and to say that your piece was one of the top three in the class is something [that] you should really be proud of."

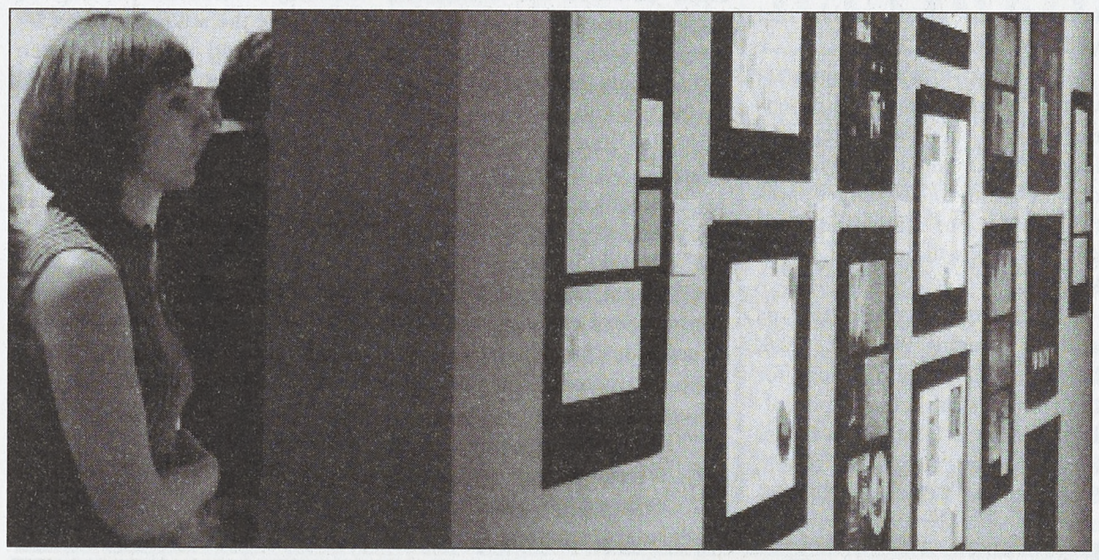
Some students may have more than one piece displayed in the exhibition. Following the exhibition, the student artwork is then displayed throughout the Art Building.

Each art piece portrayed the individual artists' different art styles, including abstract, cubism and expressionism, to capture the idea they were trying to give the viewer.

"It's really great to see all of this talent," said Carleo. "The gallery is open to the public for a couple of weeks, so it gives anyone who is interested a chance to come and see."

Accompanying the exhibition in the Art Building, the child development department continued the theme, having its own small art gallery in the Child Development and Family Complex. The inside of the building was decorated with paintings, illustrations and photographs showcasing the work created by art students.

The gallery is on display in the campus Art Building and will be open until May 31; it will reopen Aug. 27, the first day of the fall semester. The hours for the art gallery are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



FATIMA JIMENEZ | VALLEY STAR
LOOKING THROUGH ART - Artist Nadia Matviitseva looked at art made by other Valley students at Thursday's opening of the student show. The art can be viewed in the gallery on campus in the Art Building until May 31. The hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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FATIMA JIMENEZ | VALLEY STAR
GUITARIST ORCHESTRATED - The spring classical guitar recital played its final song "Ceviche Circus" to a roomful of guests on Friday, May 18 in the Recital Hall.

CONCERT REVIEW

CLASSICAL GUITAR RECITAL PLAYS THE RIGHT CHORD

Valley College guitar students performed Friday night to a sold-out crowd.

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Classical guitar students displayed what they have learned during the semester Friday night in the Valley College Recital Hall while instructors, parents and other guests listened.

The night started off with solos, duets and trios from the guitar students. It then transitioned to pieces from the whole guitar ensemble and featured work by classical guitar student Chuck Gloria.

Comprised of 10 numbers, the first act featured 15 student performers. The pieces were performed by students of a wide range of ages, from their late teens to mid-70s, and were written by such classical composers as George Frideric Handel, Johann Sebastian Bach and Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

The night opened with three female students—Angie Hougen, Alyssa Kwasman and Marlene Leone—and instructor Kate Lewis playing the "Arrival of the Queen Sheba" by Handel. Each of the four was featured during the number, and each played with joyous smiles, exhibiting pride in their work.

Soloist Robert Coronado first introduced himself and the waltz that he was to perform, the "Waltz in E Minor," by F. Carulli. Keeping with the intimate mood of the concert, he explained, "This piece is a waltz, so feel free to dance." A focused Coronado was the first student to perform a memorized piece, and he moved the audience.

The audience also favored the familiar piece by Tchaikovsky, "Russian Dance," played by one of the trios: Alyssa Kwasman, Vito Ezerskis and Nyx Garay. The composition is usually performed with an orchestra and is synonymous with "The Nutcracker,"but these three performed a much more understated rendition and transported the audience from the warm spring to the cool winter.

The highlight of the first act was the closing number, E. Pujol's "Tango, Milognia y Finale," played by Kelvin McKay-Hill and Chuck Gloria. The piece, dedicated to Music Department Chair Michael Arshagouni, involved upbeat melodies that created a musical adventure, painting a clear picture of the story behind it.

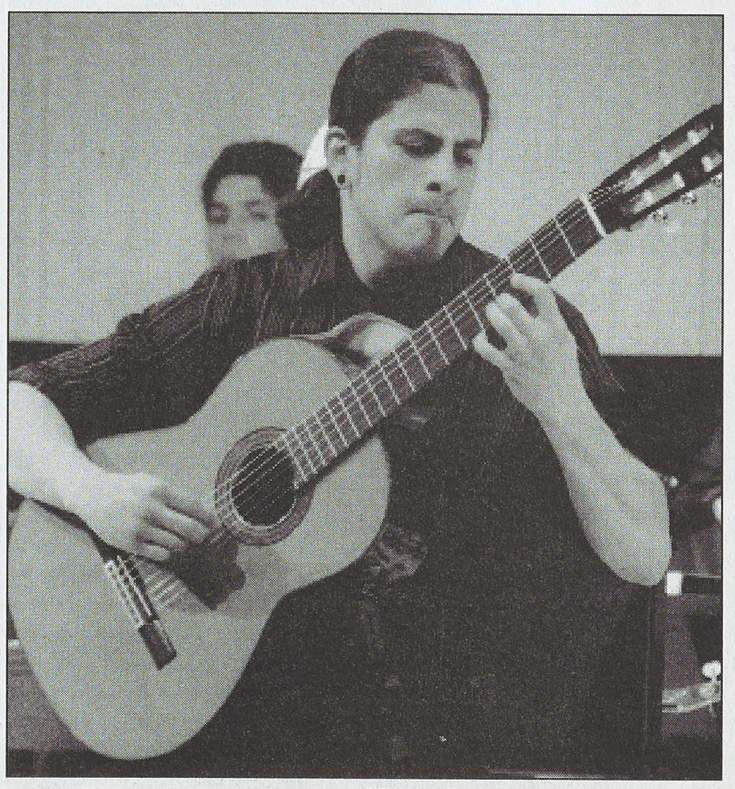
McKay-Hill and Gloria's complimentary combination of reading off each other made it apparent why this was chosen as the final piece of the first act. It was noticeable that they were doing more than just playing; they understood that each movement tells a story, and they took the audience on a fun, reflective and adventurous journey.

The second act included seven numbers, starting with all of the 30-plus students performing classical and Latin songs, alternating with Gloria, who performed solos. The unison of guitar orchestra pieces, all directed by Lewis, was like a step back into the renaissance, with more than 30 guitars playing pieces such as "Air in G" by Bach.

The star of the night was Gloria, who easily stole the show. Gloria, who is now transferring in the fall to the California Institute of Arts as a composer/performer major, performed a musical piece that he wrote, titled "The Zodiac: Gemini." Gloria briefly informed the audience that it was written about a past love and asked everyone to take note of the emotion in the piece. The piece included feverous chord progressions that indicated arguing contrasted with dramatically somber falls.

Lewis spoke about the level of work the classical guitar students put into the course: "They do way more work than one unit [for] the semester."

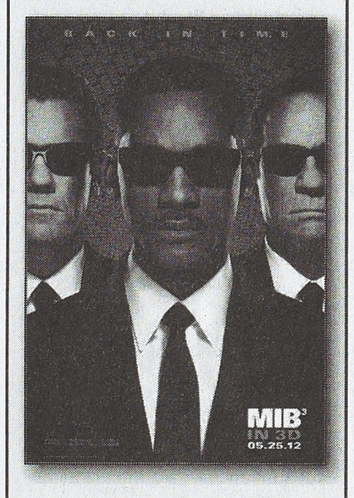
That work was evident by the quality of the students' performances.



RICHARD RAZAVI, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
STRIKING A CHORD - Chuck Gloria plays "En Las Trigales" by Joaquin Rodrigo during the classical guitar recital. The recital was held Friday, May 18. Gloria stood out, playing solo. He also showcased an original song that he wrote, titled "The Zodiac: Gemini."

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



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- "BOYFRIEND" - JUSTIN BIEBER

CONCERTS & THEATRE

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- DON GIOVANNI: MAY 24, WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL
- STALLEY: MAY 25, EL REY THEATRE
- CRESENT CITY: MAY 26, ATWATER CROSSING
- THE INTERNET: MAY 26, THE ECHO
- JAZZREGGAE FESTIVAL: MAY 27, UCLA INTRAMURAL FIELD
- VIVA LOS DODGERS. : MAY 27, DODGER STADIUM

VALLEY COLLEGE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SAYS GOODBYE AFTER FORTY YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE MONARCHS

ANTWONE MERCER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

BIG SMILE - After 40 years of dedication to the Valley College Athletics program, Deidra Stark will retire after the spring semester ends.

After 40 years of dedication, Valley College Athletic Director Diedra Stark has announced that she will retire after this semester.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For most, retirement marks a much-anticipated closure in one's career. It is a transcendent moment that many spend their entire lives laboring to achieve. Though full of excitement, for Valley College Athletic Director Diedra Stark and her 40 years of dedication to the Monarch community, retirement is also met with concern.

"I think that's my biggest worry," Stark said about potential budget cuts the Valley athletic department might face. "I do not want to see any opportunities for our student-athletes get cut. It is so important to our kids."

Prior to her first stint as athletic director in 1980, Stark held head coaching positions for the women's basketball and volleyball teams. In addition to her many achievements as coach, Stark led the 1976 women's volleyball team to a state championship.

"She started in 1972, and I was hired in 1976, [and] we served as faculty together," Valley President Sue Carleo said. "These last few years it has been an honor to have her serve in the capacity of Valley's athletic director, and I have greatly enjoyed working with her."

Stark's incredibly positive reputation amongst colleagues and unmatched understanding of the student-athlete comes as no surprise: she began her career in sports at Valley as a student-athlete. The two-time athletic director attended Valley from 1968 to 1969. During her early education as a Monarch, Stark obtained her associate's degree and won a state championship with the women's basketball team before earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal State University Long Beach.

Collectively, Stark has spent 40 years dedicating her time to the Valley athletics program. She has not only held the positions of head coach and athletic director but has also spent time as an instructor of physical education.

"Her stewardship has closely followed the mission of athletics," Valley Sports Information Director Dale Beck said. "Because of her ability to communicate in a warm and positive way, others have followed suit, thus strengthening the athletic team. That type of leadership has been appreciated and will be missed."

Bittersweet is the only word that can define Stark's departure: the anticipation and excitement of becoming a grandmother this fall has overwhelmed her with excitement, but her farewell to Valley will inevitably leave her saddened.

"I am excited for a new chapter in my life; I am going to be a grandmother," Stark said. "I am sad because I have been here for 40 years … I am going to miss my friends and colleagues, and I love the students."

According to Stark, Carleo will announce the new athletic director sometime this week, and though her title will be passed on to another, her interest and mission for Valley athletics will live on.

"It is an important stepping stone for students who come here," said Stark. "They have a dream and want to go to a university. "If we shut those doors, it will hurt our kids … my heart will always be here."

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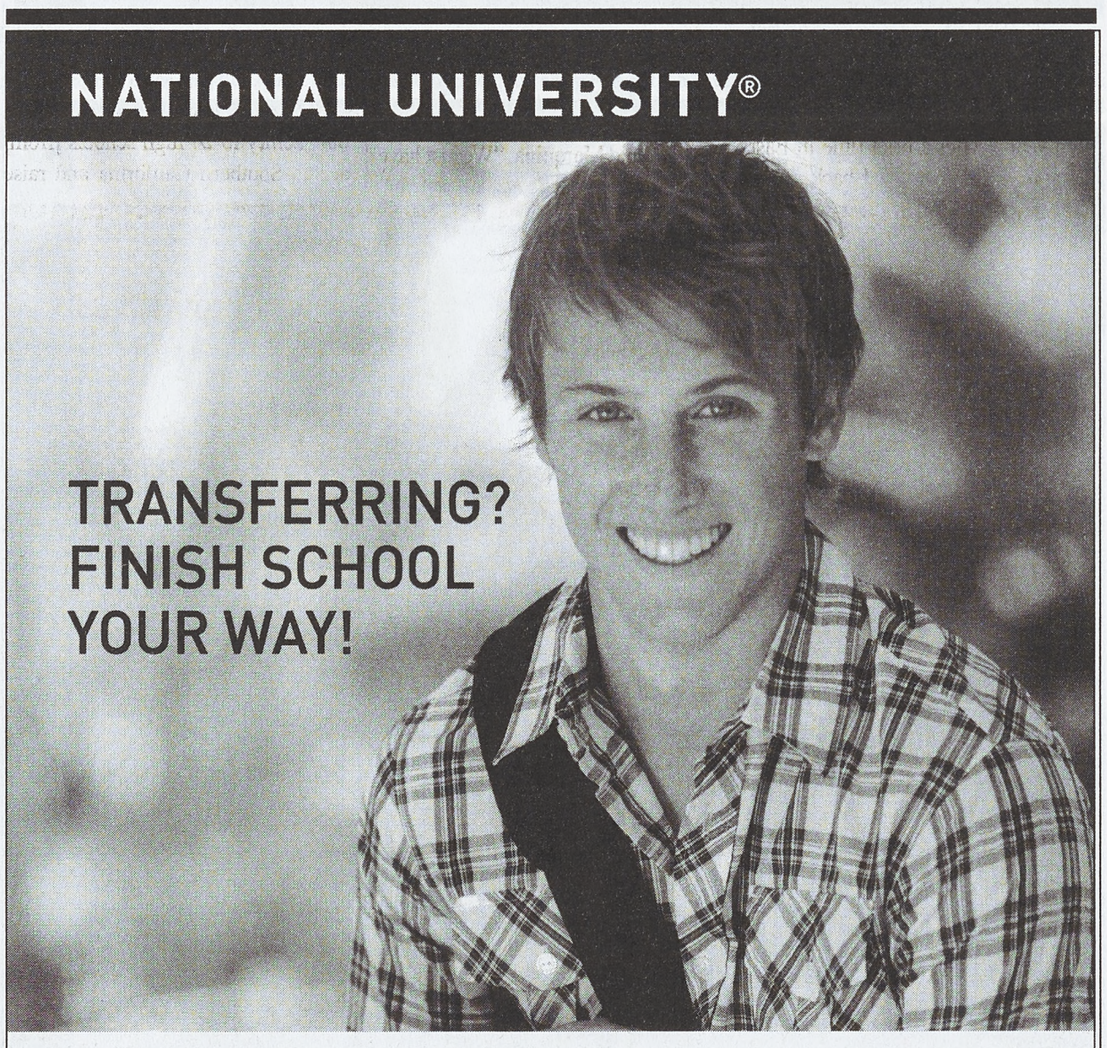
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MONARCHS SEEK LINEMEN BEFORE UPCOMING SEASON

As the Monarch football team begins spring training, coach Fenwick continues the search for linemen.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley College athletics Hall of Fame coach Jim Fenwick has been part of the Monarch family since 1991. He quickly made his mark on the gridiron after two short years of joining Valley, making his junior college football program one of best in the state.

Fenwick is a San Fernando Valley native and began his career in Woodland Hills as head football coach at Pierce College before transferring to Valley.

"I've been coaching for 36 years," said Fenwick. "Originally I started at Pierce College, [and] then I was transferred to Valley College and became the head coach here."

When Fenwick first coached the Monarchs, he led the green and gold to four bowl game appearances, a No. 1 ranking and a conference championship in the 1995 season. After spending five years with Valley, in 1997 he was offered the head coach job at Cal State University Northridge and took charge of its former football program.

After spending a year with the Matadors, Fenwick resigned as its head football coach and headed to New Mexico University to take a position as an offensive coordinator. He spent a brief stint with the Lobos before taking his coaching experience to East Oregon University.

He then spent six seasons with the Mountaineers, leading them to back-to-back winning seasons in 2004 and 2005 with a 6-3 record both years. After a brief time in East Oregon, Fenwick moved back down to Southern California, where he took an offensive coordinating position at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

After three years with the Tigers, he returned to the lion's den, where he accepted the head coaching position for the Monarchs in 2009 after a 12-year hiatus.

"I think every year of experience you improve as a coach," said Fenwick. "When you work for four year schools, you get a better understanding of what those schools are looking for in your student athletes."

Last season, Fenwick's Monarchs had a 5-5 record that was led by a handful of sophomores who will not be returning this fall. All returning players and incoming freshmen have begun weight training and running drills on the field before the summer.

"We are losing a lot of experience this year," said Fenwick. "There a lot of new guys. We are excited about them, but there are also a lot of unknowns."

According to Fenwick, recruiting players is a difficult, year-long process that consists of talking to players and coaches about who might be interested in junior college and trying to convince them that Valley is the program that will get them to their desired goal.

When recruiting, linemen are always a priority for Fenwick. Before the 2012 football season begins, the Monarchs will have to rebuild both their offensive and defensive lines.

"We lack players on our offensive and defensive lines," said Monarch linebacker Kevin Marquina. "We don't have those positions filled yet, so we don't know what to expect."

The Monarchs' first game of the season will be against East Los Angeles College Sept. 1 at Monarch Stadium.

"For the past two years, we beat ELAC," said Marquina. "We just have to go in confident like we always do."

ANTWONE MERCER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

PASSING TOURNAMENT - Jim Fenwick and Monarch Stadium were host to 24 Southern California teams Saturday for the third annual seven-on-seven Monarch Passing Tournament.

FOOTBALL DEPARTMENT PLANS AHEAD, WAS HOST TO POSSIBLE VALLEY RECRUITS

Monarch football coach Jim Fenwick invited Southern California high school teams to Valley College.

ANTWONE MERCER
PHOTO EDITOR AND
LAGINA PHILLIPS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Monarchs' third annual Air Passing Tournament attracted 24 local high schools to Monarch Stadium Saturday, giving the Valley College football program an early look at some of the top student-athletes from Highland to Calabasas.

"This is a great way to expose our facility to 24 high schools [from] across Southern California and raise [a little] money," said Valley football coach Jim Fenwick. "However, our primary purpose is to have some fun, gain exposure and set up possible recruiting for down the road."

The all-day event started at 8 a.m. and included three separate tournaments: two pool-type seven-on-seven passing tournaments, which consisted of the smaller schools playing each other and the larger teams competing; and the lineman challenge, dubbed the Monarch Mash. The Mash saw the linemen competing in obstacle courses such as the tire flip and the caterpillar race, which had the teams working as a unit to be the first to cross the finish line on an apparatus made of two-by-four planks and rope. Additionally, the linemen competed in a 185-pound weight-lifting contest and the culminating event: a tug-of-war.

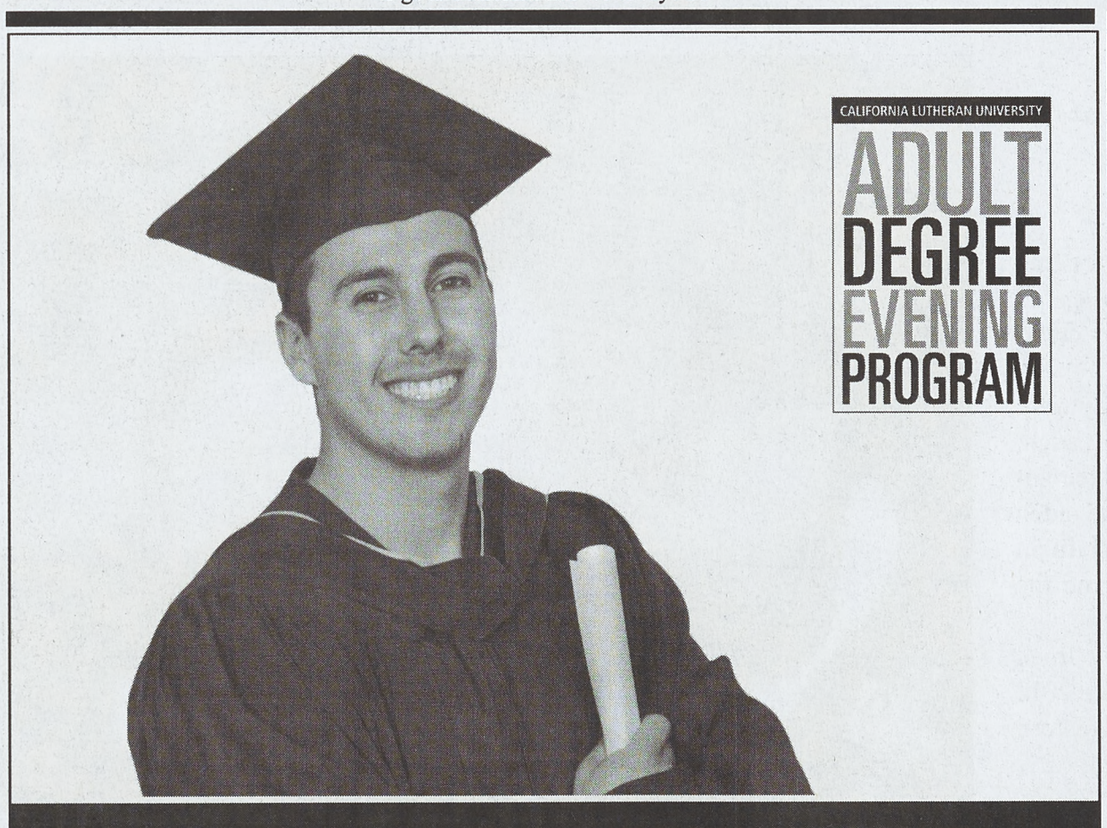
Playing off Valley's colors, the seven-on-seven tournaments saw the two teams representing green and gold: the smaller schools made up the gold team, and the larger schools made up the green team. The green team champion, Alemany High School; the gold team victors, La Salle High School; and the winner of the lineman challenge, Birmingham High School, won bragging rights and T-shirts.

Participating high schools paid between $225 and $300 to enter the tournament. Most of the funds raised went toward paying for the day's activities, concessions and staff for the event, with the remaining money going to the football department. The passing tournament was designed to highlight and test the positions of quarterbacks, running backs, receivers, tight ends, linebackers and defensive backs, and to get a head start on recruiting.

"This is a great tournament that gets our kids ready for the up-and-coming season," said Christen Pierce, the head coach of the Calabasas High School varsity football team, which finished the day two and two. "We actually have some of our graduated students play on [the Monarchs] and coach on [Fenwick's] staff."

The series of 45-minute games were held on several of Valley's fields, including Monarch Stadium, the football team's practice field, the baseball field, the archery range and the women's softball field. Each game, teams would have to drive the ball down field 40 yards and were issued a first down every 15 yards. The team with the most points at the end of 45 minutes won that particular match.

"What we wanted to do is bring the kids out today to have food, fun and football, and follow up on some of the top student-athletes in Southern California," said assistant offensive line coach Rashaad Goodrome, who was in charge of the Monarch Mash.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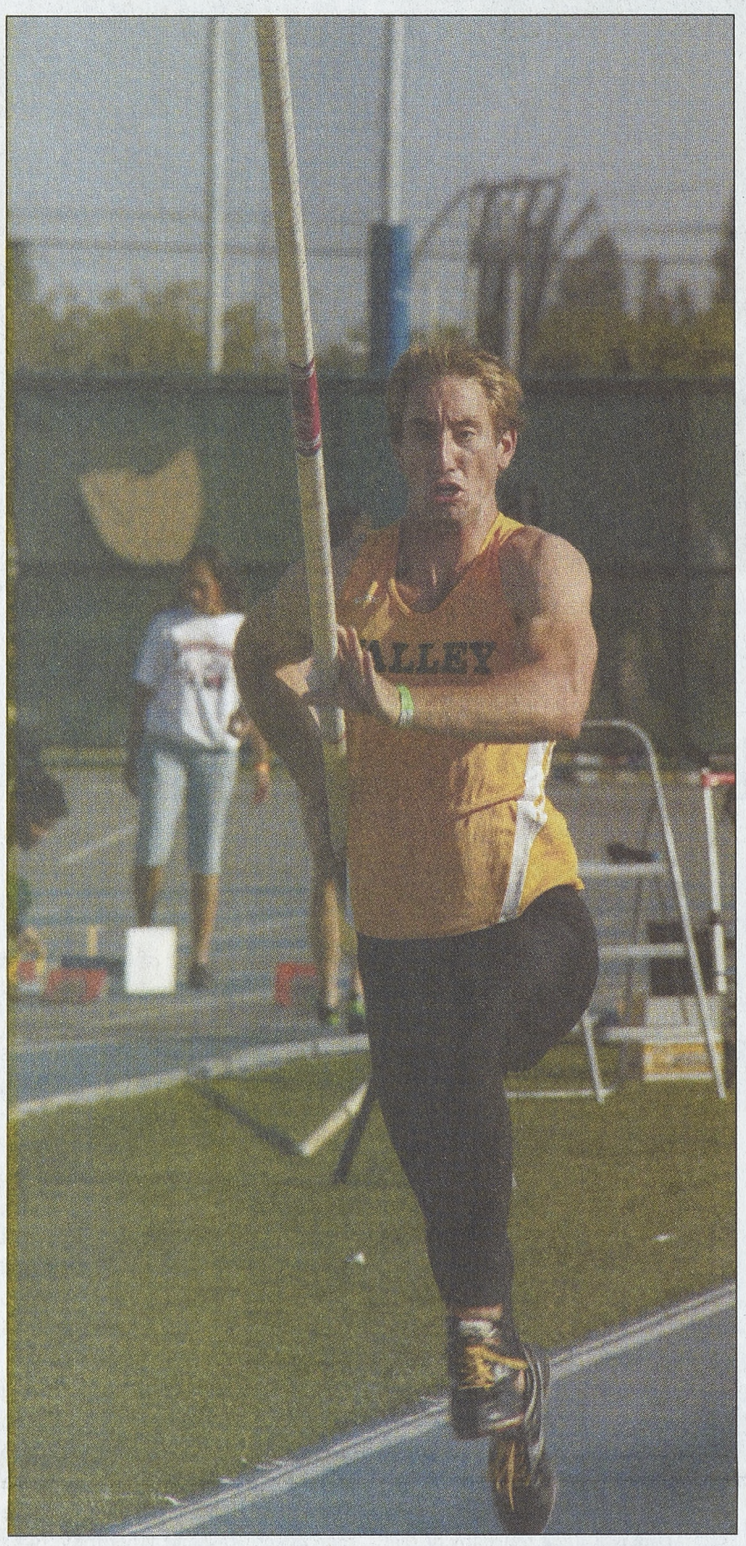
TRACK & FIELD PLACES IN TOP 10 IN STATE COMPETITION



PHOTOS BY RICHARD RAZAVI
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

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STAFF WRITER

The Valley College track and field team attended the 2012 California Community Colleges State Championship hosted at Cerritos College on Saturday where the women's team finished ninth in the state out of 41 competing teams.

The team also placed second in the 4 x 100-meter relay with a time of 46.79 seconds, finishing one second behind the state champion for the event, Oakland's Laney College.

Monarch runner Alva Castillo finished second in the 400-meter race with a personal best time of 54.47 seconds. She concluded her performance finishing third in the 200-meter race with another personal best time of 24.19 seconds.

In the pole vaulting competition, Monarch freshman pole vaulter Molly Pearlman ended her season with a third-place finish after clearing the bar at 3.5 meters.

Representing the men's team for Valley were Angel Alcantar and Alexander Hamidzadeh. Alcantar placed sixth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:42 minutes. Hamidzadeh mirrored his performance and placed sixth in the pole vaulting competition after clearing the bar at 4.40 meters.

Overall, five Monarch athletes were named Community College All-Americans for the 2012 season. Valley finished second in the Western State Conference behind Glendale College.